

# LOOKING FORWARD—FOR FUN



APPARENTLY that is what Harrison Rhodes was doing when he wrote **PAGES FROM THE DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL**, although that title suggests looking backward to the early part of the nineteenth century. If you are old enough, it will call to mind a kind of literature that used to be familiar enough.

The diary is dated 1952; so you can see there is nothing old fashioned about the tale, although the heroine frankly admits that she is considered hopelessly old fashioned by the generation to which she belongs. You know straight off that you are not to take the story seriously, especially if you happen to believe in universal suffrage. From Mr. Rhodes' story one might think it should be spelled "suffrage."

It is perfectly obvious all the time that Mr. Rhodes has been looking ahead for humorous purposes only; for, while it appears that conditions have changed absolutely, it seems to be up to the heroine to have her father renominated and elected President simply because she is woman—human nature, or, more particularly, feminine nature, hasn't really changed at all, although certain traits most familiar in print have been accentuated. It is something of a shock to be informed that the heroine provoked talk that amounted almost to scandal by appearing in an undivided skirt, and to hear her revolutionary suggestion that she cannot abide the feminine fashion of wearing trousers without any ribbons or braid or adornment whatsoever. She seems to think they lack both the true feminine and the true artistic touch.

But, after all, the looking forward notion is merely a background for a love story that is charming as well as fantastic, a love story that is more than amusing, because it has the genuine ring in it—all love stories should have. It was originally planned for our **SUNDAY MAGAZINE** Prize Competition; but it exceeded the length, and the author felt that it would be unwise to condense it. He should know.

Even before he went to Harvard from his native city of Cleveland, Mr. Rhodes was inclined toward books. After he was graduated in 1893 he began work with the Stone & Kimball publishing firm in Chicago. Afterward he represented magazines and publishing houses in London; and all the time he was fitting himself to be a writer. He published "The Lady and the Ladder" in 1906, "Charles Edward" and "The Flight to Eden" the following year, and has written no end of short stories and articles. He began writing plays by dramatizing "Captain Dieppe" with Anthony Hope, and collaborated with Thomas A. Wise on "A Gentleman from Mississippi."

**T**HERE are two prize entries in our next **SUNDAY MAGAZINE**. **THE BACKSLIDER**, by Kate Jordan, is a tale of unusual power. It is the story of a great devotion and a great sacrifice, wherein is shown a lofty recognition of the sacredness of mother love. This is a perfectly true description; which nevertheless will lead you astray if you try to speculate about the story. For many years Kate Jordan has made writing her profession; for she began when she was a very little girl. She has the storytelling gift.

**O**SCAR CARLYN'S **JOB**, by Ellen Mackubin, is also a prize entry, a tale of lumbermen, of swift, fierce passions, of heroic daring and sacrifice. It has thrills in it. The author lived sometime in Minnesota. She was born in Chicago, was educated in Italy, lived many years in Europe, and then came back to America; so she has had a wide and varied experience which has given her rich material for her many stories. These have long been familiar to readers of "The Atlantic Monthly," "Century," and other magazines.

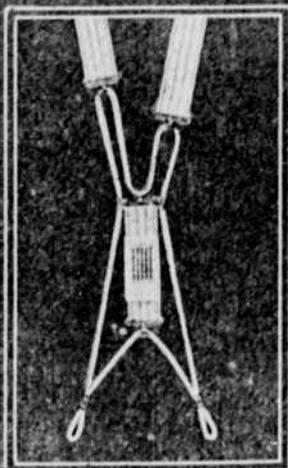
**T**HE **MONEY MOON**, the charming serial by Jeffery Farnol, pursues its delightful way. If you happen to have missed it thus far, just read this instalment and enjoy something that is nearly perfect.

**T**HE **Illustrated Song** is **TAKE BACK THE HEART THAT THOU GAVEST**, for which the painting was made by A. B. Wenzell.



Kate Jordan.

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